DC
BATMAN #706
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CHINATOWN, GOTHAM CITY.
ARRAAGHAAAAH!

AIEERGHGGHNN
I ENSNARED YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR JADE COMPASS SOCIETY, MR. FOX. THERE'S NO USE *LYING* ABOUT YOUR ROLE IN THIS.

I CAN END YOUR PAIN...BUT YOU MUST TALK TO ME.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES YOU WANT ME TO *SAY* IT. I'M *NOT* PART OF ANY SECRET BROTHERHOOD!
LUCIUS FOX
WAYNE ENTERPRISES CEO

THIS ANCIENT BUDDHIST SYMBOL OF OM IS A GUIDE. THAT MUCH I MANAGED TO *PERSUADE* MR. FONG INTO DISCLOSING BEFORE HIS NECK FELL ACROSS MY SWORD.
SENSEI
I...NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

STUPID MAN. I DIDN'T JUST UNCOVER YOUR GROUP BY *CHANCE*. I KNOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE *POWER* YOU ARE KEEPING FROM ME.
YOU HAVE...NO POWER OVER ME. I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT I *DON'T KNOW*...

SO BE IT. MAYBE *THIS* WILL JAR YOUR MEMORY...

TAM!
TAMARA FOX
DAUGHTER OF LUCIUS FOX

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I INTEND TO LEAVE THIS PITIFUL ROOM A *MUCH WISER MAN.*
LEAVE MY *DAUGHTER* OUT OF THIS! THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND *ME!*

MAYBE *SHE* WILL HAVE THE ANSWERS I NEED.

I'LL *KILL* YOU! YOU TOUCH HER--! YOU *HEAR?!*

I'M ALL EARS.
MMPHH!

NORTH AVENUE, GOTHAM CITY.
THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY "A DAY LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT," BATMAN.
I'm in a bad spot.
UHMPH!
NOW, ENIGMA, IT ISN'T POLITE TO KICK A MAN WHEN HE'S DOWN.
RIDDLER
EDWARD NIGMA
WHAM
ENIGMA
THE RIDDLER'S DAUGHTER
IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO TRY TO TEACH YOUR DAUGHTER MANNERS NOW--
I can hardly see, and my ears are ringing. I can't tell where they--
--are.
--DON'TCHA THINK, DADDY?

DICK GRAYSON
BATMAN
WRITTEN, PENCILLED & COVER BY TONY S. DANIEL
INKS BY SANDU FLOREA & RYAN WINN
COLORED BY IAN KANDA LETTERED BY JARED K. FLETCHER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR JAELLE SIEGLE EDITOR MIKE MARTS
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE
THIRTY POINTS!
IS HE DEAD? DID I JUST KILL BATMAN?
SILLY, SILLY GIRL. IF ANYONE WERE TO KILL BATMAN, IT WOULD BE MOI.
NOW GET HIS BELT AND HIS MASK SO WE CAN ANALYZE WHATEVER HE HAS. IT MIGHT PAY ME WELL.
YOU MEAN "US."
OH. ISN'T THAT WHAT I SAID?
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
IDIOT! WHAT DID YOU DO?
CHILL, POPS. IT'S JUST HIS STUPID BELT, NOT A BOMB.
YOU SURE OF THAT, SPANKY?
AFTER WITNESSING THE DEATHS OF HIS PARENTS AS A BOY, DICK GRAYSON WAS TAKEN UNDER BATMAN'S WING, BECOMING ROBIN. BUT WHEN THE BOY WONDER BECAME A MAN, HE GAVE THE IDENTITY OF ROBIN AND BRANDED HIMSELF AS NIGHTWING. TODAY DICK IS THE GUARDIAN OF GOTHAM CITY. TODAY HE IS...
BATMAN EYE OF THE BEHOLDER PART THREE | SPEAK NO EVIL

ROBIN TO THE RESCUE--*AGAIN.* BACK UP, BATS--OR YOU'LL GET STUNNED, TOO.
DAMIAN WAYNE
ROBIN
HEY, THAT'S NOT *ROBIN!*
ROBIN--SHOW HER.
-:TT:-
TRUST ME. I'M ME.
SO WHAT'S WITH ALL THE COSTUMED FEMALES IN GOTHAM THESE DAYS?

ARE THOSE *HORMONES* I'M SENSING, KID?
KRUNCH
PLEASE. I'M ABOVE SUCH TRIVIAL MATTERS.
KOFF
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT, BOY WONDER?
SMASH
WONDERFUL. THEY'RE GONE.
CHICKENS!
SO WHO WAS SHE?
SCREEEEEC

NOLAN'S PEAK LIGHTHOUSE.

GOTHAM CITY— CIRCA 1929. THE YEAR IS CERTAINLY CORRECT. IT IS THE SAME YEAR THE BEHOLDER WAS BROUGHT TO GOTHAM CITY.

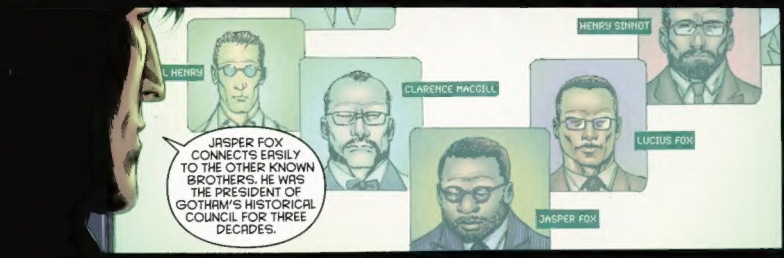
THE CITY HAS GROWN TENFOLD SINCE THEN.

YOU CLAIM THAT LINING UP THIS BLUEPRINT WITH FONG'S SYMBOL OF OM WILL REVEAL THE BEHOLDER'S LOCATION.

I HAVE NO TIME TO DECODE THE TRIVIAL CLUES OF YOUR BROTHER'S. SOMETHING IS STILL MISSING.
LET MY DAUGHTER GO FIRST AND I'LL SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU.

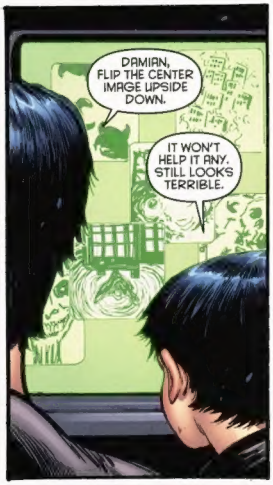
UNDER WAYNE TOWER. THE BAT BUNKER.
MASTER RICHARD, I'VE CROSS-CHECKED AND SORTED THROUGH AS MANY RECORDED CONTACTS AS POSSIBLE--
--AND NOTHING SO FAR SUGGESTS MR. FOX'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANY SORT OF SECRET SOCIETY.

THAT'S OKAY, ALFRED. I FOUND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
SIR?
I-CHING TOLD ME ABOUT A DR. PAUL HENRY--THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING THE BEHOLDER TO GOTHAM IN THE FIRST PLACE.
BUT SIR, HOW IS HE CONNECTED TO MR. FOX? DR. PAUL DIED YEARS AGO.
LUCIUS FOX DIDN'T KNOW PAUL HENRY...BUT HIS FATHER, *JASPER* FOX, DID.


L HENRY
CLARENCE MACGILL
HENRY SINNOT
LUCIUS FOX
JASPER FOX
JASPER FOX CONNECTS EASILY TO THE OTHER KNOWN BROTHERS. HE WAS THE PRESIDENT OF GOTHAM'S HISTORICAL COUNCIL FOR THREE DECADES.

ALFRED PENNYWORTH
BUTLER TO THE WAYNE FAMILY
IT SAYS HERE THAT JASPER FOX FOUGHT CITY HALL TO HAVE NUMEROUS BUILDINGS DEEMED HISTORICAL LANDMARKS.
HE DIED IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT BEFORE MOST OF THE PETITIONS SAW A COURT DATE.
GOOD WORK, ALFIE. FIND OUT WHAT BUILDINGS HE WAS TRYING TO PROTECT.

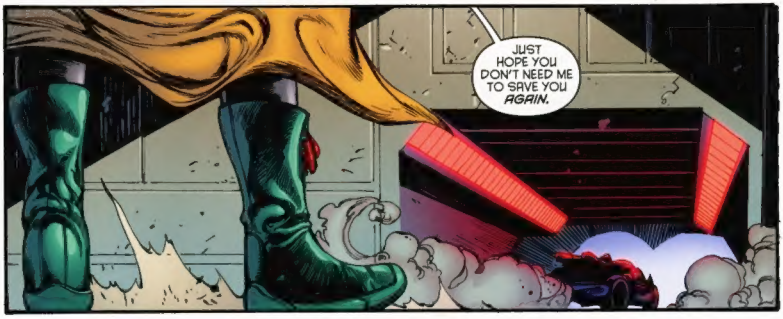
HEY, DETECTIVE-- PICTURES UPLOADED. DID YOU FIND THESE AT A NURSERY SCHOOL?


DAMIAN, FLIP THE CENTER IMAGE UPSIDE DOWN.
IT WON'T HELP IT ANY. STILL LOOKS TERRIBLE.

SCALE UP.

REAPER...

SHOTGUN!
VRMM
NO. WHILE ALFRED GETS ME A COMPREHENSIVE DIAGRAM DETAILING EVERY JADE COMPASS SOCIETY MEMBER AND TRANSFER'S IT TO MY UTILITY BELT--
--YOU'LL BE FINDING OUT HOW RIDDLER AND ENIGMA ARE INVOLVED IN ALL THIS.


JUST HOPE YOU DON'T NEED ME TO SAVE YOU AGAIN.

ARKHAM ASYLUM.
I'M SORRY, BATMAN. I DRAW THE LINE AT INTERROGATIONS WITH PATIENTS WHO ARE IN THE CRITICAL CARE WARD.
DR. ALYCE SINNER
ARKHAM DIRECTOR
DR. SINNER, I UNDERSTAND YOUR NEED TO PROTECT YOUR INMATES--
BATMAN, I PREFER THE TERM RESIDENTS.
RESIDENT GRUENER, ALSO KNOWN AS THE REAPER, WAS FOLLOWING SOME VERY BAD PEOPLE. PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HURT THE INNOCENT.
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT HE SAW, HOW MUCH HE SAW, AND WHERE HE SAW IT.
SOMEWHERE IN HIS BROKEN MIND, HE HAS A SENSE OF GOOD AND EVIL. HE COULD SAVE LIVES. YOU'D LIKE THAT FOR HIM, WOULDN'T YOU?
OF COURSE. BUT...
...I AM NOT THE BAD GUY HERE. EVERY TIME YOU ARRIVE, I FEEL...
JUST THIS ONCE. UNDERSTAND?

THIS IS HARDLY A FAIR FIGHT, BATMAN...
I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT, DR. GRUENER. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU GET THE PEOPLE YOU WERE TARGETING.
TREACHEROUS TRICKS YOUR VENOMOUS LIPS SPILL.
NO TRICKS. CHINATOWN. REMEMBER?
WRAITHS WHO WALK THE EARTH--HOW THEY YEARN FOR THE DELIVERANCE FROM EVIL ONLY I CAN GIVE THEM...
RIGHT. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THIS MAN. CORRECT?
THE BUTCHER. YOU MUST UNDERSTAND.
His mind is toast. The drugs they have him on aren't helping matters, either.
FIND THE CHINESE BUTCHER...
...YOU DO THAT, YOU CAN SAVE US ALL.

ELSEWHERE
I-CHING... THE PAIN...
...IS GONE NOW.

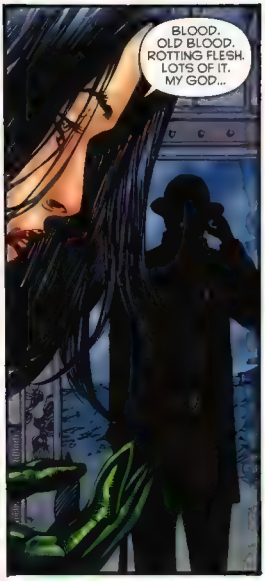
I-CHING
I...I FELT WHAT THEY DID TO HIM. TO LUKI. HE *SENT* IT TO ME. IT-IT WAS *UNBEARABLE!*
THEY BROKE HIM, SASHA. WE CAN ONLY HOPE HE PROTECTED THE BEHOLDER FROM HIS INQUISITORS.

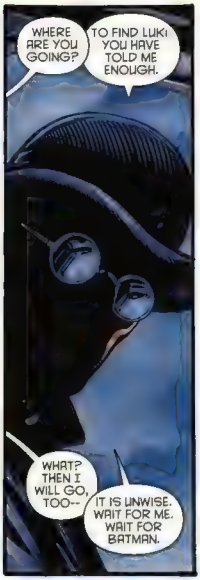
I AM AFRAID. I FEEL NO CONNECTION TO HIM. HE'S UNCONSCIOUS OR...OR...
HUSH NOW--

DRAW IT. TRY TO MAKE SENSE.
PEACOCK

I-I *CAN'T*. HE SHOWED ME NOTHING. ONLY DARKNESS.

THEN EVERYTHING WENT BLINDINGLY *WHITE*. AND THEN I COULD ONLY *SENSE*. I COULD ONLY *FEEL*. AND *SMELL*.
CHILD, IT IS IMPORTANT. WHAT DID YOU SMELL?


BLOOD. OLD BLOOD. ROTTING FLESH. LOTS OF IT. MY GOD...

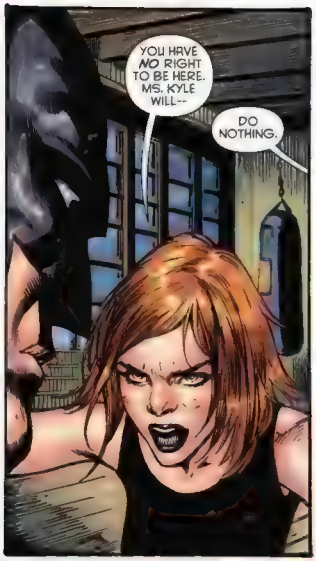

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO FIND LUKI YOU HAVE TOLD ME ENOUGH.
WHAT? THEN I WILL GO, TOO--
IT IS UNWISE. WAIT FOR ME. WAIT FOR BATMAN.

HOME AND SECRET HEADQUARTERS TO SELINA KYLE, A.K.A. CATWOMAN.
BOFF
HWAA!

JERK!
BOFF
HITRIN FALCONE
CATGIRL

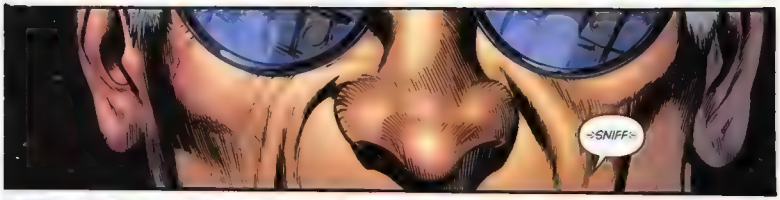
YOU'LL NEVER HEAR SOMEONE SNEAKING UP ON YOU WITH ALL THAT YELLING.
OWCH!

ANTICIPATE WHAT YOU DON'T SEE. ESPECIALLY WHEN TAKING ON MULTIPLE ATTACKERS.
HAVE I DONE SOMETHING ILLEGAL, COPPER?
YOU TELL ME.


YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE HERE. MS. KYLE WILL---
DO NOTHING.

SELINA KYLE
CATWOMAN
FOR THE MOMENT, AT LEAST.
YOU SAID YOU WOULD *PROTECT* ME, REMEMBER?
PROTECT, YES. DEFEND, NO. ANSWER BATMAN'S QUESTIONS SO HE CAN BE ON HIS WAY.
NARC.
YOU CAN TALK, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO *LISTEN*, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL SAVE YOUR BAD BREATH.
LAST NIGHT. YOU WERE TAILING THE *REAPER*. FOR REWARD MONEY, TO BE A HERO, WHATEVER. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING THERE.
NOTHING. JUST HANGING OUT ON A ROOFTOP LIKE ALL YOU DUDES DO.
WHICH ROOFTOP?
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN READ THE STREET SIGNS WAY UP THERE...
...BUT I CAN SHOW YOU.

CHINATOWN


SNIFF

肉店高
HERE YOU ARE, MY LITTLE FRIEND.

SMASH

Bruce would kill me if he knew about this.
But Catgirl promised she'd return to Selina's as soon as we found the spot.
THAT-A-WAY!
Not that there's any reason I should believe her. But, hey, it's all I can do.
YUP. THIS IS IT. HE WOULD SIT THERE FOR HOURS AND JUST FREAKIN' STARE.
EXCEPT FOR THE OCCASIONAL POTTY BREAK-- WHICH WAS PRETTY GROSS, I MIGHT ADD. ESPECIALLY TO ANYONE WALKING UNDER HIM.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT BUILDING HE WAS STAKING OUT, HM?
THE BUTCHER.
WHAT BUTCHER SHOP?
RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
AIN'T NOTHIN' HERE BUT SOME PAWN SHOPS, A HALF DOZEN CHINESE TAKE-OUT DINER'S AND A STINKY OLD BUTCHER SHOP.
BATMAN DOESN'T KNOW CHINESE, EH? :-TSK:- :-TSK:- :-TSK:- SO, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THE BUTCHER SHOP?
NOTHING. BUT NOW I NEED YOU TO KEEP YOUR PROMISE. THAT MEANS SPLIT, KID.
BEATS HANGING AROUND THIS HELLHOLE. WELL, ZAI JIAN!

Going around back I find someone's busted down the door.
This is the place, all right.
BWAWK
CLUK-CLUK
CLUK
BWAWK
BWAWK
But what can I find here?
I-Ching.
SENSEI!
FWOOSH
!

WHAT WOULD MY VICTORY PARADE BE WITHOUT MY MASCOT?
TIME TO JOIN YOUR FRIENDS, BATMAN. TIME TO DIE.
TO BE CONCLUDED

HEY THERE, DC NATION, IT'S BEEN A WHILE. REMEMBER ME?

It's been nearly a year since **Jim Lee** and I took on the responsibilities of Co-Publishers of DC Comics, and while I haven't been able to join you folks through this column, I have listened to your likes and concerns with our line of comics. Whether it was by talking or chatting with you at conventions or through social networks, it has always been our goal to make sure the voice of the Nation was heard. We like it when you talk to us, but we also know that you like to talk to each other. So with that in mind, I am happy to announce the return of the letters columns in all our ongoing series. That's right, the return of the letters column! Not a dream! Not a hoax! Not an imaginary story!

You said you wanted a forum where you could comment on the books you love and reach out to other fans, and now you have it! So mail us your cards and letters or e-mail us through our website. Either way, this is your chance to speak out. Don't be shy, and start sending in your comments now.

So much of what Jim and I have been working on has been with you the fan in mind. And probably the one thing I have been most proud of is our decision to roll back and hold the price of a standard comic to $2.99. This is not about select series or miniseries but ALL series. When I first took this job I stated that I wanted DC Comics to be the number one comics company. And I still stand by that statement and we are committed to that goal. We will not do that by raising prices and taking for granted the fans' continued support. That is not a win, not for anyone. For DC to be number one we will do it in the best way possible, by creating the best stories with the greatest characters in the most affordable way possible so that you, our fans, can enjoy as many of our books as you like.

The Nation has always been here for us, and I want to assure you that we are here for you too.

I missed you guys.

To be continued...

DD

(Special thanks to Danny Kelley and Sean Hettler for the photo, and to all the "Lanterns" that helped bring the DCU to life.)

DC NATION

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LEGION